NexStar MX

DUAL 3.5" SATA HDD ENCLOSURE
eSATA & USB 2.0 INTERFACE

MANUAL

www.vantecusa.com

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1. Introduction:

Vantec NexStar MX Dual Bay External HDD Enclosure is a quick and simple way to expand storage capacity to your computer. It comes without the hassle of diving inside the PC and messing with all those wires, cables and connections. It provides maximum storage with the increased capacity of two spanning hard drives for your precious family photos, music, video, and games. It supports JBOD, Individual, Raid 0, and Raid 1 Modes for effective storage management. The sturdy drive cage protects your hard drive while the aluminum case effectively draws away the heat; the front vents and the rear fan keep your hard drive(s) cool and improve performance. The Vantec NexStar MX is a high performance, capacity, and durable portable storage solution and lets you store your personal data in an enclosure with style!

2. Package Contents:

- NexStar MX Dual HDD Enclosure
- Arcsoft Totalmedia Backup™Software
- USB Cable
- eSATA Cable
- SATA to eSATA Bracket
- Power Adapter
- User Manual
- Installation Screws
- Enclosure Stand

3. Specifications / Features:

Specifications:

Model:	NST-400MX-SR
Device Support:	3.5” SATA I/II Hard Drive (2)
Internal Interface:	Serial ATA
External Interface:	USB 2.0 / eSATA
HD Capacity:	Up to 2TB
Transfer Rate:	USB 2.0 (Up to 480Mbps)
	eSATA (Up to 3.0Gbps)
Material:	Plastic and Aluminum Alloy
Dimensions:	197x123x72mm

Features:

- Supports Two SATA I/II Hard Drives Up to 2.0 TB of Storage.
- USB 2.0 External Interface Allows You to Transfer Data Up to 480Mbps.
- eSATA External Interface Allows You to Transfer Data Up to 3Gb/s.
- Front Ventilation and Rear Fan for Better Air Circulation and Cooling.
- Stylish Aluminum Case to Draw Away the Heat.
- Support 4 Different Configuration Mode: JBOD / Individual / Raid 0 / Raid 1
- Simple Plug & Play Connection; Does Not Require Drivers.
- Arcsoft Totalmedia Backup™ Software, Archive Photos, Music, Video and Data with Three Easy Clicks.

4. System Requirements:

- Intel Pentium II 350 MHz compatible or Mac G3 processor & greater
- Microsoft Windows 2000/ XP/ VISTA or Mac OS 8.6 & greater
- For USB 2.0 speeds , the system must support USB 2.0 specification
- For eSATA, the system must support Port Multiplier(PM) specification

5. Interface Information:

NexStar MX Dual3.5" SATA HDD Enclosure:

USB Port

Connect to a computer directly using a USB cable.

eSATA Port

Connect to a computer directly using a eSATA cable.

Fan

Automatic fan to keep the hard drives cool.

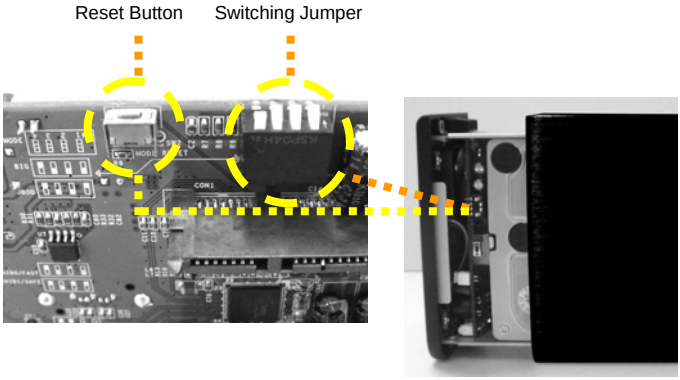
6. Installation:

Installation NexStar MX Dual 3.5" HDD Enclosure:

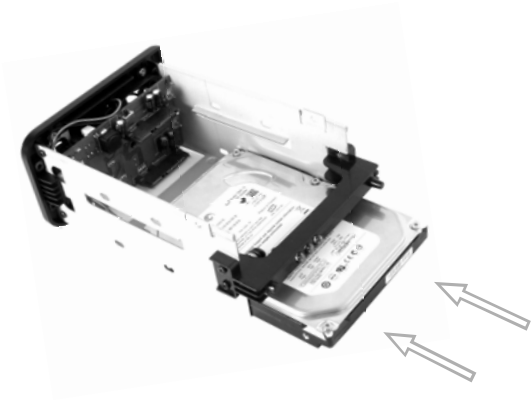
Installing two hard drives into the NexStar MX Dual:

1) Release the four screws then pull out the rear panel and tray of the NexStar MX Dual

2) Select operation Mode by switching jumper and press reset button to reset the device.



3) Place the first HDD onto the drive caddy then insert the HDD into the SATA connector.



4) Place the second HDD onto the drive caddy then insert the HDD into the SATA connector.

5) Secure the hard drives onto the drive caddy with screws provided.

6) Insert the drive caddy back into the aluminum housing. Be sure to align and secure with the screws provided.

7) Switch the power button to power on.

7.Driver Installation:

Windows ME/ XP/ 2000/ Vista

1) No drivers are necessary when using Windows ME/ XP/ 2000/ Vista. If the hard drive does not appear under My Computer, be sure to partition your hard drive.

Mac* OS *9.0* or *later:

1) No drivers are necessary when using Mac as 9.0 or later. If the hard drive does not appear on the desktop, be sure to partition your hard drive.

Mac* OS *8.6:

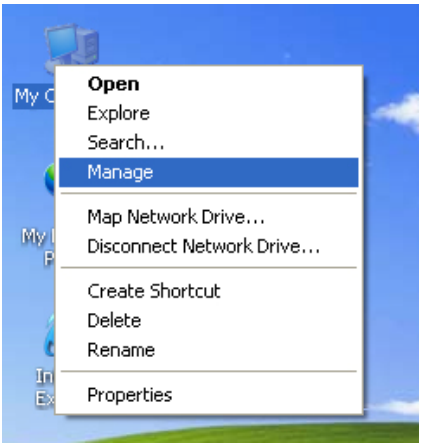
1) Unplug the NexStar MX Dual if you currently have it connected.
2) USB Mass Storage Support 1.3.5 must be installed on your system. If it is not, you can download the USB Mass Storage Support 1.3.5 from the AppleSoftware Updates website: http://www.apple.com/support
3) Follow the direction associated with the USB Mass Storage Support driver to install
4) Repeat the steps listed under "Connecting the NexStar MX Dual to your computer."

8. Creating a New Partition / Formatting The Hard Drive:

Note: Most hard drives should come with a CD that includes its installation program. If not, a download should be available on the manufacturers website. The best way to partition a new hard drive is by using the manufacturers program. However, if that is not possible, please try the following instead (if using Mac as 9or below, please refer to your hard drive documentation for information on formatting/partitioning the hard drive):

NOTE: Warning: Doing the following will erase any existing data on the drive. If the drive is damaged and you wish to recover the data, continuing may overwrite the existing information!

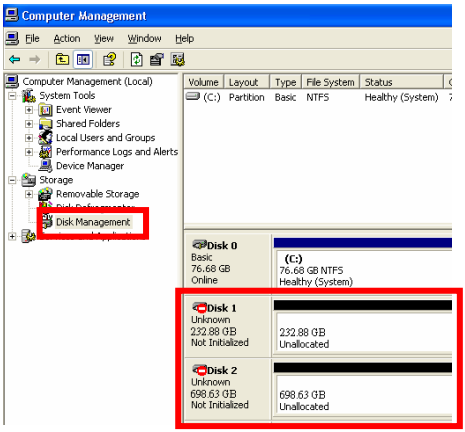
STEP1: Right-click on "My Computer" icon and select the" Manage" column.



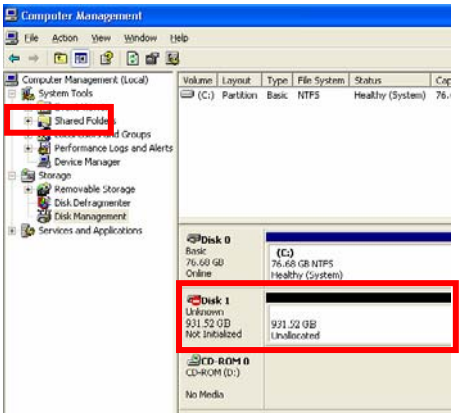
STEP2: **Select “Disk Management” and you will see your hard drives show “Unallocated”.**

Sample：750GB & 250GB hard drives.

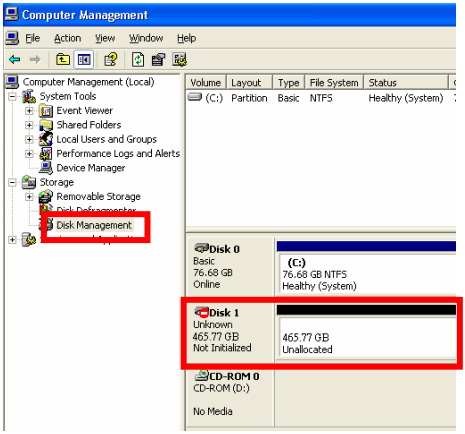
Individual Mode



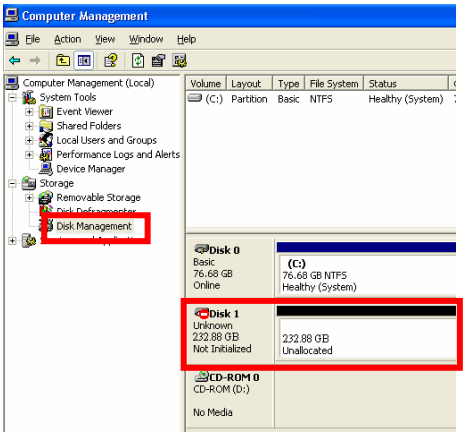
JBOD Mode



RAID 0 Mode

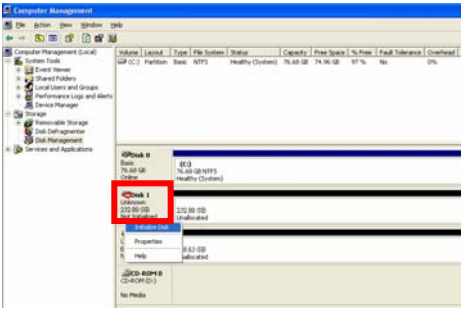


RAID 1 Mode

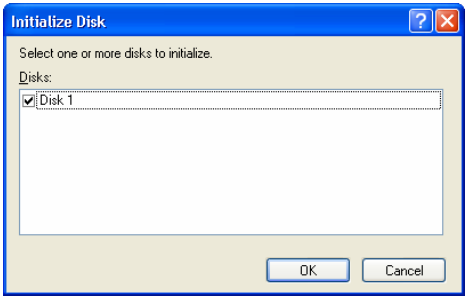


STEP3: **Right-click the red-squared block and selects “Initialize Disk”.**

Take JBOD Mode for example. (one 750GB HDD & one 250GB hard drives)

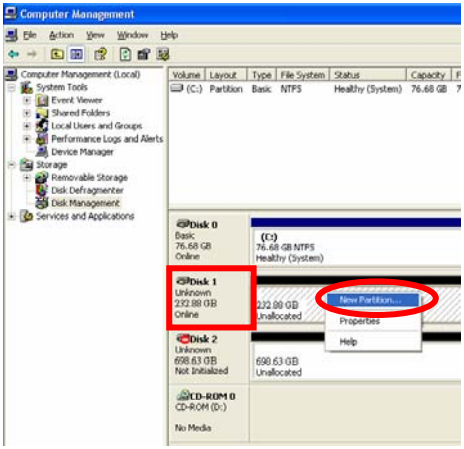


STEP4: **Press “OK” button to initialize hard drive.**

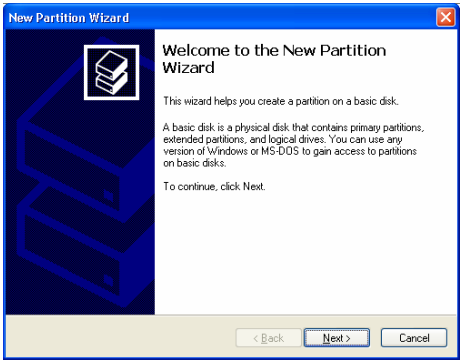


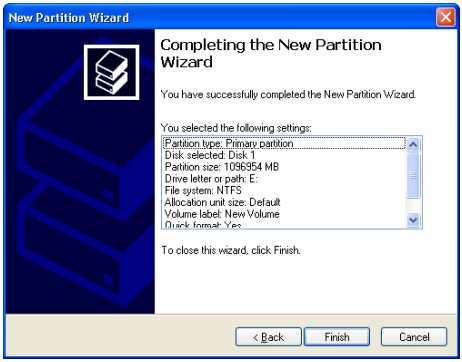
STEP5: **The hard drive will show “Online”.**

Right-click the “Unallocated” block and selects “New Partition”.

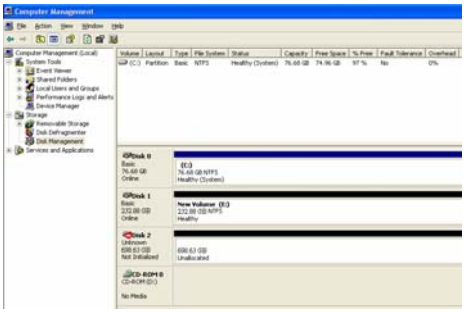


STEP6: The “New Partition Wizard” will appear. Please follow the instruction of the wizard to complete the partition.

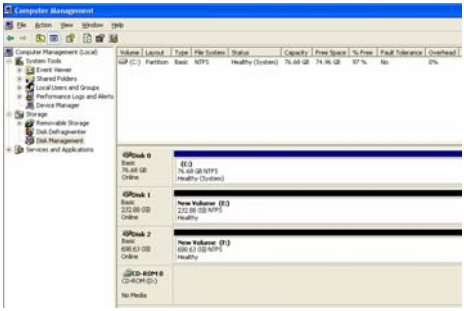

New Partition Wizard
Welcome to the New Partition Wizard
This wizard helps you create a partition on a basic disk.
A basic disk is a physical disk that contains primary partitions, extended partitions, and logical drives. You can use any version of Windows or MS-DOS to gain access to partitions on basic disks.
To continue, click Next.
< Back
Next >
Cancel



STEP7: When new partition is completed, the hard drive will be recognized as a “New Volume”.



STEP8: Format the other hard drive in the same way.

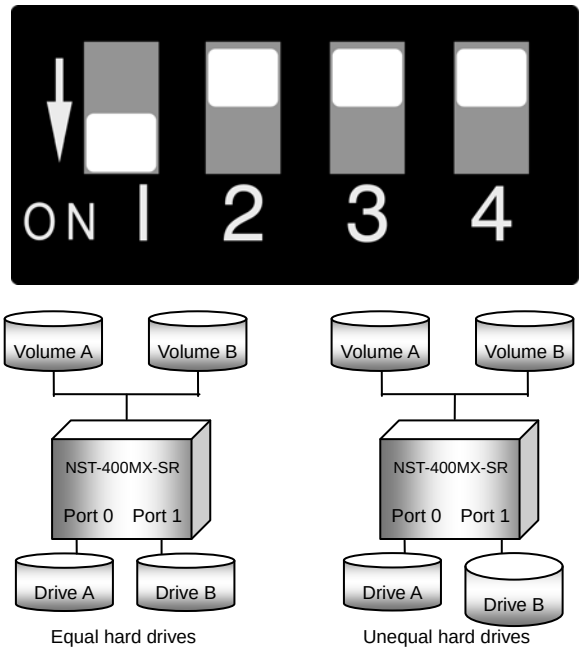


9.RAID Mode Selection:

Jumper Selection & Storage Policy Definitions

Individual Mode：

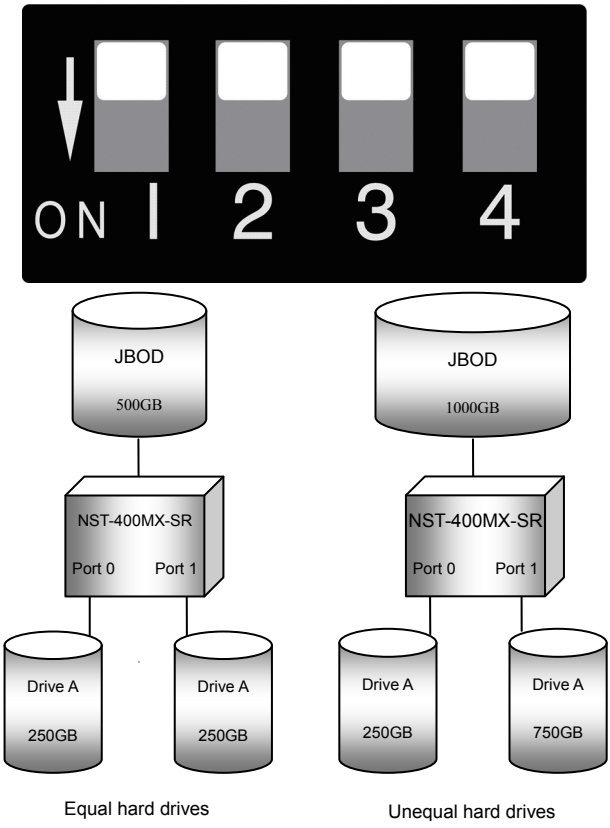
It enables each hard drive to be seen separately as single drives. When using a SATA host controller, Individual should only be used if the SATA host controller provides “Port Multiplier” support. If the host card does not support Port Multiplier, only a single drive will be present. No such limitation if using a USB host connection.



JBOD Mode：

It concatenates a series of physical hard drives as a single large volume; resulting in a seamless expansion of virtual volumes beyond the physical limitations of singularly connected hard drives. Hard drive A and B are concatenated into a single virtual volume in the figure below with a storage capacity that is equal to the sum of each of the physical hard drives A and B.

It is also possible to create a JBOD volume using only a single hard disk drive connected to Port 0, and then increase the storage capacity of the volume later by adding another hard disk drive to Port 1 and pressing reset button. The new disk blocks of Port 1 will be concatenated to the end of the disk blocks of Port 0, and any data that is stored on the existing JBOD volume will be preserved. However, it is not possible to expand an existing JBOD volume by adding another hard disk drive to Port 0 and still preserve any existing data on that volume.

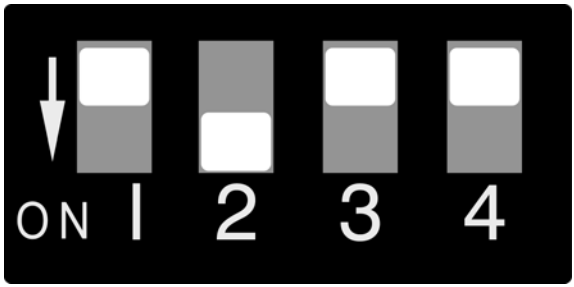


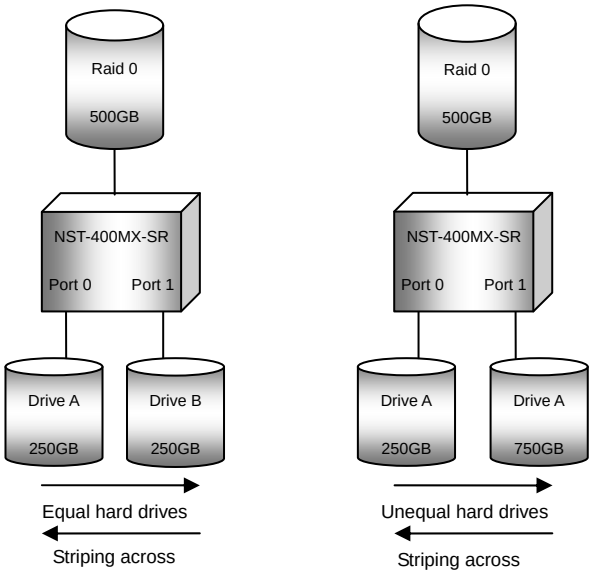
RAID 0 **：**

It's a combination of two physical partitions, where the data is striped between them. It presents the best data speed but no data redundancy.

Two equal hard drives：The capacity is equal to the sum of both hard drives.

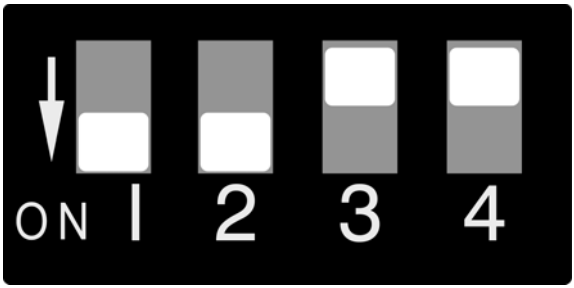
Two unequal hard drives：The capacity is double of the smaller hard drives.

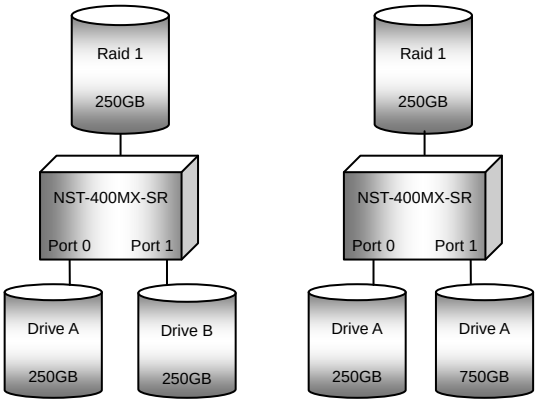




RAID 1 :

It allows the device automatically to copy data to both hard drives. It stores all data in duplicate on separate drives to protect against data loss due to drive failure. It provides the highest level of data protection for critical data that you cannot afford to lose if a hard drive fails. The capacity is equal to the smaller of the two hard drives. If one drive fails, the SAFE volume is still usable, but it is in a vulnerable state because its mirrored hard drive is inaccessible. When the offline drive comes back online, the appliance begins a rebuild process immediately to restore data redundancy. Although the volume remains available during the rebuild process, the volume is susceptible to data loss through damage to the remaining drive until redundancy is restored at the end of the rebuild and verification process. Host access takes precedence over the rebuild process. If you continue to use the SAFE volume during the rebuild, the rebuild process will take a longer time to complete, and the host data transfer performance will also be affected.





Equal hard drives

Unequal hard drives

10. Disconnecting The NexStar MX DUAL:

NexStar MX Dual 3.5" HDD Enclosure:

Warning: NEVER remove the NexStar MX Dual while the hard drive is in use. Doing so may corrupt the data on the hard drive or damage the hard drive, NexStar MX Dual, or computer.

Windows *ME /XP /2000 /Vista:*

1) Make sure all operation using the hard drive within the NexStar MX Dual has ceased.
2) Close any windows and programs pertaining to the NexStar MX Dual.
3) If connected by USB, double click the green "Unplug or Eject Hardware" icon in the system tray and select [Safely Remove Hardware]. Select the device you wish to remove and click on [Stop].The system should prompt, "It is now safe to remove the USB device". If not, wait for any programs still using the device to finish and try again.
4) Turn off the NexStar MX Dual.
5) Unplug the USB cable from the system.

Mac OS:

1) Make sure all operation using the hard drive within the NexStar MX Dual has ceased.
2) Close any windows and programs pertaining to the NexStar MX Dual.
3) From the Desktop, drag the NexStar MX Dual hard drive to the trash.
4) Turn off the NexStar MX Dual.
5) Unplug the USB cable from the system.

11.Troubleshooting/ FAQ/ Warranty:

NexStar MX Dual 3.5" HDD Enclosure:

Q. *My computer recognizes the NexStar MX Dual, but it does not assign a drive letter to it.*

A. You are probably using a brand new hard drive. If not, then your computer may not be able to recognize the partition on the hard drive because it is damaged or not a valid format. Please refer to the section "Creating A New Partition" for information on how to create a useable partition on your drive.

Q. *My computer sometimes recognizes the NexStar MX Dual, but sometimes gives* me *errors.*

A. If your computer is giving you problems with the NexStar MX Dual, be sure to connect the USB cable to a rear port, directly off the motherboard or USB PCI card. The cables connecting front USB ports are not always properly shielded and cannot properly handle USB 2.0 speeds, thereby corrupting the signal between the NexStar MX Dual and the computer.

Q. *Why is the data on* my *hard drive corrupted?*

A. Connecting your hard drive to the NexStar MX Dual is just like connecting a hard drive to the inside of your computer. The NexStar MX Dual itself will not corrupt your data. If your data has become corrupt, it is likely caused by the removal of the NexStar MX Dual while data was still being written to the hard drive. CAUTION: Never remove the NexStar MX Dual while data is being written to the hard drive! Doing so may cause the hard drive to become corrupt. Make sure all applications being run off the disk and all files in use are no longer in use before removing the unit.

Q. Why is my computer not showing the full size of my hard drive?

A. If you are using Windows 98SE, please refer to Microsoft's Windows 98 Support Center and download the large capacity drive patch. Else, verify that your motherboard supports large capacity drives. Some older motherboards cannot use drives larger than 137 GB. If Windows *XP/2000* will not let you create a partition larger than 32GB, make sure you are using the NTFS file system, as Windows *XP/2000* limits FAT32 partitions to only 32GB.

Q. Why can't Windows 98SE read my hard drive? It works with Windows XP /2000.

A. Windows 98SE cannot recognize the NTFS file system. If you wish to use the device with Windows *XP/2000* and Windows 98SE, you need to format the drive as FAT32.

Q. *Why can't I copy files larger than 4GB onto* my *Nex5tarMXDual?*

A. You have probably formatted the hard drive in the FAT32 file system. FAT32 limits the file sizes to 4GB maximum. The NTFS file system does not have this limitation.

Warranty:

The NexStar MX Dual comes with a 1 year limited warranty (90 day parts). If your unit should become defective within that time frame, please go to http://www.vantecusa.com for information on how to receive warranty exchange or repair. Cosmetic defects and missing parts are not covered under this warranty. Please check the contents of the unit to make sure you received all parts. Also, check for any cosmetic flaws. If any parts are missing or if there are cosmetic defects, please contact the retailer from which you purchased the unit immediately and ask for a replacement.

12. Contact:

Vantec Thermal Technologies

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website: www.vantecusa.com

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